

Urban District Council
of Ince-in-Makerfield



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1941
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



G. H. POTTER,
Medical Officer of Health.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer—
G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician to Ante-Natal Clinic—
C. H. WALSH, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

*Consultant Bacteriologist—*G. CARY LYNCH,
M.D., D.P.H.

*Dental Surgeon—*E. A. HAIGH, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

*Sanitary Inspector—*W. THORPE, Certificate Royal
Sanitary Institute, and Meat Inspector's Certificate.

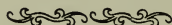
*Sanitary Inspector's Assistant—*B. FRANCE,
(Serving in H. M. Forces).

Health Visitors—

MISS E. L. SAYER, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert.R.S.I.
MISS F. M. GILLEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert.R.S.I.

Ince-in-Makerfield

Urban District Council.



*To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee,*

Sir, Mrs. Winstanley, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present an Interim Report on the health of the District for the year 1941, compiled in the abbreviated form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

The belated appearance of the Report is due to the unavoidable delay in the transmission of the Vital Statistics from the County Public Health Department.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,



1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area : 2,320. acres.

Population (Census 1931) : 21,763.

Estimated mid-1941 (Registrar General) : 19,390.

Total Number of Houses (Census 1931) : 4,630.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1941, according to Rate Books : 5,237.

Rateable Value : £63,326 (Reduced).

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £263/17/2.

Ince is essentially an industrial area, the principal industry being coal mining. In addition, wagon works, railway work and cotton spinning mills give employment to both sexes.

Unemployment is practically non-existent in the District.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
<i>Live Births</i> {	Legitimate	190	177	367
	Illegitimate	4	7	11
	TOTAL...	194	184	378
		Male	Female	TOTAL
<i>Still Births</i>	... ..	2	8	10
		Male	Female	TOTAL
<i>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</i> {	Legitimate	18	14	32
	Illegitimate	2	1	3
	TOTAL...	20	15	35
DEATHS...		131	140	271

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1941.....19.4

Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population.....13.9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.....	25
No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth:	
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil
From maternal causes.....	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.	
due to Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births	
due to other puerperal causes.....	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	92
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	86
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	272
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	36
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	2
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age).....	Nil

Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

TABLE A.
ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause of Death	Total at all periods up to 1 year	Under 1 month	1—3 months	4—6 months	7—9 months	10—11 months
Premature Birth	2	2	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	18	2	7	4	2	3
Congenital Deformity.....	2	—	2	—	—	—
Gastro Enteritis.....	3	1	1	1	—	—
Convulsions	1	1	—	—	—	—
Icterus Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia	3	3	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—
Weakness at Birth.....	3	3	—	—	—	—
	35	14	11	5	2	3

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1941 as compared with the previous year.

T A B L E B.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i> 1941	<i>No. of Deaths</i> 1940
Enteric Fever	0	1
Measles	0	0
Whooping Cough	2	0
Diphtheria	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Influenza	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	1
Phthisis	14	16
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	3
Cancer	36	29
Heart Disease	57	59
Bronchitis	26	40
Pneumonia	30	40
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	1
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Diseases of Parturition	0	1
Suicide	2	4
Accidents	16	16
Other Diseases	83	88
	<u>271</u>	<u>301</u>

2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of Wigan Royal Infirmary, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1941 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens : 57 Throat Swabs, 1 Cerebro-spinal Fluid, 1 sample of Blood for Widal Reaction, 1 Eye Swab (Ophthalmia), 5 Samples of Milk, 1 Sputum, and 1 Urine.

8 Water Samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory and to Liverpool University Public Health Laboratory.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Infectious Cases were removed to Hospital in the motor ambulance of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board during the year 1941.

During the same year Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by either the motor ambulances belonging to the Wigan Borough Police, or by the motor ambulance belonging jointly to the Urban Districts of Ince, Hindley and Abram.

The arrangements made with the neighbouring authorities of Wigan, Hindley, and Leigh Joint Hospital Board for the use of their Infectious and Non-Infectious Ambulances, ensured that the ambulance facilities for the area were adequate.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is carried out in the area by the two Nurses employed by the Ince-in-Makerfield District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Lancashire County Nursing Association.

The District Nurses do not nurse cases of infectious disease, nor do they act as midwives nor maternity nurses.

No contribution is made by the Local Authority towards their upkeep, which depends upon a Provident Scheme of regular weekly contributions by the householders of the District.

The Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act, for the area, is the Lancashire County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Central Clinic, Ince Green Lane, on alternate Monday afternoons at 1-45 p.m., and is conducted by Mr. C. H. Walsh, M.B., F.R.C.O.G.

Child Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 2-0—4-0 p.m.

As part of the School Medical Service, Minor Ailment Clinics are held daily and Dental Clinics on Tuesday morning from 9-30 a.m. to 12-0 noon and Wednesday afternoon from 1-30—4-0 p.m. These clinics are held at the Central Clinic, Ince Green Lane, which is combined for the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Services.

Orthopædic defects among pre-school and school children are dealt with under the Lancashire County Council Scheme. The Orthopædic Surgeon attends on the first and third Mondays in each month, at the School Clinic, Library Street, Wigan, and the Orthopædic Nurse attends each Monday morning.

Children requiring Artificial Light treatment attend at the Wigan Infirmary.

All Clinics are functioning normally during the war period.

3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The two sources of the Water Supply are the Council's own Deep Wells at Golborne, and the Rivington Reservoirs belonging to the Liverpool Corporation. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

The piped supply of water to the township was examined 5 times bacteriologically and 3 times chemically during the year 1941 and found to be quite satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type : storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.

At the Sewage Works, Bacterial Filter Beds are in use, and no outstanding development has taken place during the year.

Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1941).

Number of Privy Middens	...	...	...	98
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens				155
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	35
Number of Freshwater Closets	...	...	...	5+03
Number of Waste Water Closets	...	...		—
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	...	...		—
Number of Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	.	...		5200
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System				5047

Under the General Conversion Scheme, the Local Authority pays half the cost of each conversion, with a maximum of £4 per conversion. No Conversions were made during 1941.

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street scavenging and removal of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority.

Privy middens and ashbins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and one horse-drawn vehicle and two S.D. Freightor motor vehicles are engaged in the removal of refuse to controlled tips.

There is no destructor in the district.

The removal of House Refuse is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector, but he is not responsible for the scavenging of the streets.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of premises visited	...	...	670
Number of Nuisances discovered	...	...	1292
Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	1205
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	361
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	20
Number of Legal Proceedings	...	...	—

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action has been taken with regard to smoke abatement.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

28 houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with Solution D.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or reinfestation after cleansing.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Premises in Pennington Lane have been converted for Tripe Boiling, and this trade is being carried on there without offence, with the permission of the Sanitary Authority, and under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Offensive Trades are dealt with by the Authority under local Bye-laws, dated 1909.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

208 visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS.

12 Canal Boats were inspected during the year, and 1 infringement of the Acts was discovered.

There were no cases of overcrowding.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient.

The majority of the Schools are provided with separate W.C.'s, each with its own cistern and flushing provision, but in certain schools there still remain forms of automatic flushing. It is desirable in the interests of hygiene that these should be replaced by water closets of the independently flushed type. Regular lime-washing of conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority in the case of all Schools in the area.

4. Housing.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are old in type, and congested in certain areas.

Mining subsidence is responsible for much damage to structure, and old houses are continuously in need of repairs.

Since the outbreak of the war, reconditioning work has been reduced to a minimum, and clearance of property has been brought to a standstill.

Most of the worst cases of overcrowding in the district were relieved during the preceding year by the tenancy of houses on the Pennington Lane Housing Site.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ---

(i) By the Local Authority —

(ii) By other Authorities —

(iii) By other bodies and persons —

(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :

(i) By the Local Authority —

(iii) By other bodies and persons —

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1941, 8 samples of milk were taken by the officers of the Lancashire County Council and submitted for examination, all being found satisfactory.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district have been regularly inspected, and at all times their condition has been found satisfactory.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

There are 19 Milk Purveyors (including 2 Cowkeepers) in the district. 12 Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been issued to retail distributors, and 3 Licences in respect of the sale of accredited Milk were granted during the year.

(b) MEAT.

There is no slaughter house in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced. All diseased meat is at once seized by the Sanitary Inspector.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

6. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

During 1941, cases of infectious disease, requiring hospital treatment, were removed to the Astley Sanatorium of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, by agreement.

49 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 50 in 1940, and of the 49 cases, 17 were removed to hospital for treatment. There were no fatal cases.

17 cases of Diphtheria of a mild type were notified during the year, compared with 16 in the previous year. Of the 17 cases, 10 were removed to hospital for treatment. There were no fatal cases.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Town Hall, and at the Higher and Lower Ince Police Stations, and are always available to the medical practitioners

Contacts of cases of Diphtheria have been excluded from school, and kept under close observation

As stated earlier in the Report, 57 Throat Swabs were reported upon to the Authority by the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child, and is performed by the Medical Officer at the Central Clinic. During 1941, 46 pre-school and 565 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid (Parke, Davis & Co.). No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

3 cases of Paratyphoid B Fever were notified during the year, and removed to hospital for treatment. All the cases progressed satisfactorily.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1941.

Measles of a mild type was prevalent during the year.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1941.

T A B L E C.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified ; number of Deaths from these Diseases ; number of cases removed to Hospital ; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1941.

DISEASES	Total Under Cases all ages	1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital persons belonging to Hospital district
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	49	...	2	3	1	7	24	11	...	...	1	...	...	17	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup....	17	...	...	...	2	1	10	...	2	2	...	...	...	10	...
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3	...
Acute <i>Primary</i> and <i>Influenza</i> Pneumonia...	34	3	2	2	3	1	6	2	3	5	5	2	...	30	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	4	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio Encephalitis..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	1
Measles (excluding German Measles).....	220	19	21	34	37	32	76	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	64	11	7	13	8	3	22	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
TOTALS.....	397	34	33	52	51	44	138	13	7	11	8	5	1	32	36

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1941, 118 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray, and it is usual, in the district, to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles.

The Steam Disinfector belonging to Hindley U. D. Council was utilised for the Disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to Hospital.

CANCER.

36 deaths (19 male and 17 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, compared with 29 in 1940.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Ince residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act 1920 is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council, and Ince cases attend at the County Dispensary in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan.

40 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1941, 28 being cases of Pulmonary, and 12 cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 14 deaths from Pulmonary, and 4 from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

TABLE D.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1
5—10	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
10—15	1	...	1	..	...	...	...	...
15—20	1	3	1	1	...	1	1	...
20—25	2	5	1	...	1	3	...	...
25—35	1	6	1	2	1	4	...	1
35—45	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
45—55	1	2	...	1	...	2	...	...
55—65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 & up- wards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	10	18	6	6	3	11	2	2
	28		12		14		4	

7. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 2-0 — 4-0 p.m.

The babies are weighed and advice is given to the mothers about themselves and their infants, by the Medical Officer and the Nurses.

The Ante Natal Clinic is conducted by C. H. Walsh, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.O.G., and is held fortnightly on Monday afternoon at 1-45 p.m.

During 1941, 174 Expectant Mothers attended the Clinic, making a total number of 544 attendances, and 4 Mothers attended for Post Natal advice.

In addition, the Health Visitors paid 156 first visits, and a total number of 405 visits to expectant mothers at their homes.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant mothers, recommended by the Surgeon at the Ante Natal Clinics.

There are no Maternity Homes in the district, nor is there any institutional provision for dealing with unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children within the district.

Expectant and nursing mothers and young children can be admitted to Billinge Hospital, Wigan Infirmary, and hospitals at Liverpool and Manchester. No arrangements have been made for the provision of emergency units or home helps.

The Nurses reported as follows on the Infant Welfare work—

Number of First Visits to new Babies	...	361
Number of Supervision Visits—under one year	5970	
Number of Supervision Visits—over one year and up to five years	5224	
		<hr/> 11194

*Number of Children who attended at the Clinic
for the first time during the year—*

(a) Children under one year of age	...	281
(b) Children between the ages of one year and five years	... ..	8
		<hr/> 289

In accordance with the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, arrangements were made with the Wigan Infirmary for the provision of consultant advice, and bacteriological examinations, when requested by the medical practitioner, while home nursing of these cases is taken over by the Home Visitors from the attendant Midwives. Cases requiring hospital treatment would be removed to Astley Sanatorium. No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during 1941.

Maternal Deaths are investigated by the staff of the County Medical Officer, with the co-operation of the District Medical Officer.

Orthopædic treatment for children under five years of age is carried out under the Lancashire County Scheme at the Wigan Clinic, in close co-operation with the similar treatment of school children under the School Medical Service. X-ray and Sunlight cases receive treatment at the Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Royal Infirmary, while operation cases are admitted to the Biddulph Grange Orthopædic Hospital.

Under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937, the home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases is undertaken by the Health Visitors, while cases requiring hospital treatment would be sent to the Wigan Public Assistance Institution.

Cases occurring during 1941 are classified as follows—

—Ophthalmia Cases—

Number Notified	Treated at Home	Treated in Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
1	1	0	1	0	0	0

The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors for the discharge of the functions of the Local Authority under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936.

